

## **Literacy Planning Minutes**

### **May 20, 2010**

*Our challenge is to develop a literacy program unique to Midd-West, which emphasizes current reading and writing research and provides us with a medium for delivering high-quality literacy instruction in order to make all students successful for life.*

#### ☐ **Reading Articles from Ed Leadership**

- Continue to post, monitor and respond to discussions on the wiki.

#### ☐ **RtI Group Discussion – Summaries**

- Fuchs & Fuchs
  - Two models (tier & problem solving)
  - The primary intent is to prevent labeling and mislabeling of students for special education services.
  - Students are provided with the interventions they most need
- McEneaney
  - Process deficit models of intervention (past)
  - Reading recovery makes sense in terms of really helping students at an early age
- Klingner/Edwards
  - RtI probably the most promising approach for culturally diverse students who may be mislabeled
  - Language barriers vs. learning disabilities
  - 4-tier model
  - Sensitivity to cultural differences

#### ☐ **RtI Group Discussion**

- RtI makes sense.
- RtI gives students time to develop at their pace by providing interventions individual students need when they need them. In many cases, it is not that students cannot perform the required tasks it is just that they are not quite ready.
- We are already doing things that serve as a basis for RtI
- No one model is the perfect fit.
- See IRA guidelines for RtI on the wiki under Lit Team Readings for an additional summary.

#### ☐ **Discussion of Writer's Workshop**

- Group discussion included specific points about writer's workshop to include:
  - Appropriate scope and sequence to focus on specific strategies at each grade level
  - Adequate professional development (workshops, train the trainer, modeling through literacy coach, etc...)
  - Allocated time in the schedule for daily writing and conferencing with students
  - Writer's workshop model to include the Calkins' materials without losing site of specific skills that need taught at each grade level

- Our plan of moving forward includes a focus on the implementation of Writer's Workshop for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Kindergarten will continue with Kid Writing. We will utilize the Lucy Calkins' materials as a resource in addition to the curriculum as established through the work of the curriculum collaboration group, which is the curriculum currently housed in the Learning Focused Schools (LFS) Toolbox. A scope and sequence will be generated using these two resources in addition to standards as outlined by PDE, which can be found in SAS.
  - We will continue to utilize prompts in addition to the writer's workshop model to provide students with a well-rounded writing curriculum that provides students with instruction at their level and integrates specific skills as necessary.
  - We are planning a visit on June 16<sup>th</sup> to see writer's workshop in action.
  - Materials will be available for teachers next week for those interested in taking them home for the summer.
  - Our initial writer's workshop professional development will begin in August.
  - Communication to all teachers will occur on June 2, 2010 by the building principals.
- ☐ I have also been spending a lot of time researching writing programs that are in line with our writing goals and needs for next year. The keys to our success lie in implementation and professional development. In addition to the training at Teachers College, we will continue to look for opportunities for professional development that align with our goals. Check out the following resources:
- The National Writing Project at [www.nwp.org](http://www.nwp.org)
  - Capital Area Writing Project at <http://citl.hbg.psu.edu/cawp/index.cfm>
  - The Collins' Writing Program at <http://www.collinseducationassociates.com/index.html>
- ☐ As always, please continue to keep the lines of communication open with the team and me. Information will be posted to the wiki as it becomes available throughout the summer.
- ☐ Teachers interested in participating in round two of the curriculum collaboration sessions on August 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> should let me know. We will be looking for one teacher per grade level to participate in the English/Language Arts session.

**Other:**

- ☐ Reading Recovery information emailed to reading specialists on May 28, 2010.

**Reminders:**

- ☐ Summer Institutes - June 22, June 23, June 29 and July 1, 19-22, & 27, 2010
- ☐ Read Naturally - June 30, 2010 & July 20, 2010

